

Army Punishes 3 Officers for Misusing Intelligence

By JARED STOUT

Newsweek News Service
WASHINGTON—Three senators "rain" who ordered the probe when he was assistant secretary of state for congressional relations.

for Army officers have been punished for their part in ordering, then covering up, an Army intelligence probe done as a favor for a private businessman. The probe cost a civilian his job.

All three officers have been reprimanded. Two of them, the deputy commander and the director of investigations for the Army Intelligence Command at Fort Holabird, Md., have or will be retired. Both men were colonels.

The Pentagon inquiry also showed the probe was covered up because officers at Fort Holabird believed it was ordered by the then head of the intelligence command, General William H. Blaketteld, and the probe's subject was a Blaketteld field relative.

When he was assistant operations officer of the 71st Military Intelligence Detachment (MD) at San Juan, Puerto Rico, Pentagon action is under way to strip him of a Army commendation medal. At the Pentagon-level investigation, Blaketteld, and the probe's subject was a Blaketteld field relative.



The case was the first known instance of Army punishment for officers misusing domestic intelligence. It was disclosed in documents on file at the St. Croix office of Western Union International. Lynch had no connection with the Army or access to classified material.

The agent was told by the assistant operations officer of the 771st MID to report his findings to Lynch's superior, Nitel B. Davis, chief of the Western Union Cable office.

Davis was "a drinking bud" of the operations officer, Lynch, the documents said. Davis told the investigating agent he was trying to fire Lynch, but did not have sufficient evidence to do so.

The case was the first known instance of Army punishment for officers misusing domestic intelligence. It was disclosed in documents on file at the St. Croix office of Western Union International. Lynch had no connection with the Army or access to classified material.

The agent was told by the assistant operations officer of the 771st MID to report his findings to Lynch's superior, Nitel B. Davis, chief of the Western Union Cable office.

Davis was "a drinking bud" of the operations officer, Lynch, the documents said. Davis told the investigating agent he was trying to fire Lynch, but did not have sufficient evidence to do so.